

SHREVEPORT FIRE CHIEF EXAMINATION
STUDY GUIDE

An examination for the class of FIRE CHIEF will consist of two parts which will be administered during separate exam sessions. The multiple-choice examination will be administered during the first exam session at 8:30 a.m. on May 26, 1999, and a job simulation exercise will be administered during the second exam session on May 26, 1999, beginning at 1:00 p.m. You must take both parts of the examination in order to receive a grade, although the primary weighting of the total exam results will focus on the multiple-choice examination. A complete description of the subject areas to be evaluated follows:

PART I

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
FIRE ADMINISTRATION Knowledge of the principles of effective fire service administration, including management theory and organizational behavior, planning and research, productivity evaluation, risk management, and establishing a system for internal department controls.	12.2%
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS Knowledge of accepted practices in personnel management and of the procedures for developing and maintaining an effective employee relations program, including recruitment and selection, performance evaluation, grievance resolution, and applicable provisions of civil service law.	8.8%
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Knowledge of the financial management and planning process of a public agency, including bookkeeping procedures and overseeing the expenditure of budgeted funds.	5.4%
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT Knowledge of effective information management practices, including establishing policy for and overseeing a system for the preparation, control, and retention of records.	6.8%
PUBLIC RELATIONS Knowledge of effective public relations practices which foster a positive public image of the department through contact with the media, other agencies, and the public.	5.4%

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
PUBLIC FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION Knowledge of the procedures involved in developing and conducting a fire prevention/public education program to address specific community needs.	6.8%
SUPERVISION Knowledge of the practices and techniques used in effective supervision in order to plan, organize, direct, and evaluate the work of subordinates, to resolve conflicts, and to maintain discipline.	19.6%
TRAINING Knowledge of the procedures for evaluating the training needs of the department and for developing and implementing an effective training program.	6.8%
MANAGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT/PROPERTY/SUPPLIES Knowledge of the management of equipment, property, and supplies for the department, including overseeing general care and maintenance of property and equipment, ordering and purchasing of equipment and supplies, and the preparation of specifications on new equipment for public bids.	10.8%
FIREGROUND COMMAND/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Knowledge of the procedures necessary to manage operations at the scene of a fire or other emergency, in order to develop and implement an emergency management system; to direct and control emergency operations, including the handling of hazardous materials; to monitor the activities of command staff; to provide a system of emergency medical care; and to establish and implement fireground communications.	12.2%
FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION Knowledge of fire prevention procedures, of life safety codes, and of arson investigation procedures in order to direct a program of fire inspections, pre-fire planning, and fire scene investigations.	5.4%

PART II

JOB SIMULATION EXERCISE

This portion of the examination is a management simulation exercise during which applicants will be required to make an oral presentation which will be video-taped. The oral presentation will address a job-related management problem. Each applicant will be assigned a specific time to report for this portion of the test, at which time written instructions will be provided. All applicants will be afforded an equal amount of preparation and presentation time. Scoring on this portion of the examination will be based on your

communications skills, your management ability in deciding how to handle the problem, and your public relations skills in handling a sensitive management issue. In scoring your oral presentation, the following dimensions will be used by a panel of trained raters to evaluate this portion of your examination:

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE

NO. 1.- ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ability to make an effective oral presentation by analyzing relevant data in determining speech content, organizing thoughts for an effective presentation, and using the principles of effective speech communications in making an effective and persuasive delivery.

NO. 2. - CONTENT PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Ability to identify the problem, analyze relevant information while relating data from different sources, and determine appropriate response, using relevant knowledge of fire service management.

NO. 3. - INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

Ability to be sensitive to the concerns of others and have empathy for their point of view. Ability to work in a politically charged atmosphere with political sensitivity, diplomacy, and tact. An appropriate response will maximize the public relations potential of the situation.

REFERENCE LIST

While the entire list of reference material will be useful to you in your preparation for the upcoming examination, the **majority** of test questions are sourced from those references listed under the Primary List.

PRIMARY REFERENCE MATERIAL

EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY PRACTICES, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1120 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 3rd ed., 1995.

NOTE: Obtain through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.

INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION (IFSTA)/ FIRE PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS (Training Manuals):

Fire Service Instructor, 5th ed., 1990.
Essentials of Firefighting, 4th ed., 1998.
Chief Officer, 1st ed., 1985.
Fire and Life Safety Educator, 2nd ed., 1997.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) PUBLICATIONS AND STANDARDS:

MANAGEMENT IN THE FIRE SERVICE, Carter, Harry R., and Rausch, Erwin, NFPA, 2nd ed., 1988.

FIRE PROTECTION HANDBOOK, NFPA, 18th ed., 1997.

OTHER RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS:

ADVANCED SUPERVISORY PRACTICES, International City/County Management Association, 777 N. Capitol Street N.E., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20002-4201, 1992.

MANAGING FIRE SERVICES, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 2nd ed., 1988.

NOTE: Available through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, International City/County Management Association (ICMA), 777 N. Capitol Street NE, Suite 500, Washington, D.C., 20002-4201, 4th ed., 1996.

The local civil service board should make this study guide available to all applicants in whatever manner the board deems appropriate.

While there are no provisions requiring this office to provide study guides for any competitive or promotional examinations, such material will be provided as a service to assist applicants in preparing for an examination. The State Examiner's office has no control whatsoever over the local availability of reference material (mentioned in the study guides), nor do we feel constrained to limit examination questions to only that material which is available locally. Examination content, weighting of subject areas, and length of examination, may vary with each administration of an examination to reflect any updated job analysis information. Percentages and numerical estimations are provided as approximations.